

# PROJECT: HOLT COMMUNITY - ECO HUB UPGRADE AND ALLOTMENT REFURBISHMENT

APPLICANT: HOLT COMMUNITY GARDENERS



STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED  
26



LOCATION  
HOLT, WREXHAM



TOTAL PROJECT VALUE  
£10,231.28

## GREEN COMMUNITIES FUND OVERVIEW

The Green Communities fund, delivered by rural development agency Cadwyn Clwyd, aims to support improvements to outdoor community activities and infrastructure.

Supported through the Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing grant, 30 local areas in Denbighshire, Conwy, Flintshire, and Wrexham have been given support to transform their outdoor community spaces for wildlife to thrive and to create desirable places to live, work and play.

Some groups opted for funding for renewable energy systems, such as solar installations, to reduce carbon emissions and help reduce their fuel bills.



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Holt Community Gardeners (HCG) is a volunteer group that has transformed an overgrown parish allotment into an eco hub for local residents to enjoy.

Members of the HCG had their sights set on further upgrades, including additional battery storage capacity, a second polytunnel, a new workshop and a wind turbine.

The village group is Cadwyn Clwyd's flagship project for the Green Communities fund.

## OBJECTIVES

Ultimately, HCG want to make gardening accessible to all, bring the community together and boost physical and mental wellbeing through engagement with its eco hub.

The group had plans to:

- Increase its produce offering, which would require additional infrastructure
- Acquire extra battery storage capacity
- Access an alternative energy source
- Boost volunteer numbers



## ACTIVITY

The volunteers have erected the new polytunnel to provide protection for plants at its eco hub.

Extra battery storage has been installed, to generate sufficient power to connect the new workshop and more electricity in other areas.

The Green Communities grant has gone towards a 300w wind turbine, which will complement the group's current solar panel.

For better security for gardening tools, the group has replaced its former worn-out storage shed with a brand new one.

Practicing the sustainable management of natural resources, the funding went towards the upcycling of a fallen tree trunk, which was transformed into a sculpture of a feather, thanks to a local chainsaw artist.

An installation of fused glass and wood was added to the gardens, achieving the full potential of the community space.

Bob Campbell, treasurer for Holt Community Gardeners, said: "From an environmental perspective, we like to think we're doing our little bit for the planet."

"Our work on the gardens has made us more aware of nature and how we can protect it."



**"THE GRANT FROM CADWYN CLWYD HAS HELPED US TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY GARDENS, AND IN TURN, WE'VE SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, WHICH OF COURSE BRINGS THE LOCAL RESIDENTS CLOSER TOGETHER."**

**- PETER BOSTOCK**

## OUTCOMES

The gardens are thriving and the new polytunnel and battery storage means there is sufficient protection and power for plants to flourish in all weathers.

Reflecting on the success of the eco hub refit and expansion, Bob said: "Our project has piqued interest on a national level, as I've been invited to speak about the work we do, at Bodnant Gardens for Wales in Bloom."

Group organiser, Peter Bostock added: "We have a close relationship with Holt Community Primary School, and as we've grown, there's been more of an opportunity to educate the pupils about caring for nature."

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